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Voluntary Public

Date: 2/13/2014

GAIN Report Number: IN4004

India

Post: New Delhi

FSSAI extends the timeline to obtain license by six months

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety
Policy and Program Announcements
FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) extended the deadline to obtain a food business operator (FBO) license to August 4, 2014. The Indian media reported that the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) requested an extension since FBO licenses were not being issued on a timely basis.

Executive Summary:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a statutory advisory extending the deadline to obtain a food business operator (FBO) license to August 4, 2014. The previous deadline was February 4, 2014. The Indian media reported that the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) requested an extension since FBO licenses were not being issued on a timely basis. Reportedly, vendors were concerned that even by applying before the deadline, without a FBO license they may be forced to close operations. As of February 4, 2014, FSSAI issued 481,964 FBO licenses and recorded 1,910,160 FBO registrations.

General Information:

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and, therefore, should not under any circumstances be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural trade interests.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a statutory advisory extending the deadline to obtain a food business operator (FBO) license to August 4, 2014. The previous deadline was February 4, 2014. The Indian media reported that the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) requested an extension since FBO licenses were not being issued on a timely basis. Reportedly, vendors were concerned that even by applying before the deadline, without a FBO license they may be forced to close operations. Others noted that the process was confusing, and there were no clear application instructions. Allegedly, FSSAI had plans to better streamline the process, but only recently offered an online application in January 2014, approximately 1.5 years after the original FBO licensing and registration deadline of August 4, 2012. As of February 4, 2014, FSSAI issued 481,964 FBO licenses and recorded 1,910,160 FBO registrations.

According to the [Food Safety and Standards \(Licensing and Registration\) Regulations, 2011](#) (see chapter 2, clause 2.1), a food business operator is required to obtain a FSSAI license. Schedule I of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) Regulations, 2011 provides a list of food businesses that need to apply to FSSAI. For food businesses not covered under Schedule 1, a license may be granted by a state or union territory licensing authority.

The new FSSAI advisory and other applicable GAIN reports are below:

IN3135	FSSAI sets final deadline date to obtain license
IN3009	Extension of time period for renewal of licenses and registration
IN2134	FSSAI sets deadline for license applications
IN2104	FSSAI Extends Time Period on Renewal of Licenses and Registration
IN2004	FSSAI Launches an Online Licensing and Food Import Clearance System

F. No. 1/1/Enf-1/FSSAI/2012
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road,
New Delhi-110002
4th February, 2014

STATUTORY ADVISORY

Subject: Extending time line upto 4th August 2014 for the Food business Operators seeking conversion/renewal of existing license/registration under repealed Orders.

The time line mentioned in the sub-regulation 2.1.2 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011 has been further extended upto 04.08.2014.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



(Sanjay Gupta)
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To

1. All Food Safety Commissioners of States/ UTs
2. All Central Designated Officers